

REMARKS

Independent claim 7 has been amended better patentably to distinguish the claimed apparatus over the cited prior art. More particularly, the claim now specifies that each heating block in the plurality of heating blocks has a transverse width sufficient to cover at least most of the width of the pattern bearing film; the Examiner is directed to Fig. 25 for a depiction of this arrangement. Claim 7 has also been amended to make explicit that which was implicit in the last Amendment, namely that the direction of the arrangement of the divided heating blocks and the direction of passage of the pattern bearing film are identical; the drawings likewise support this feature.

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Ohno '536 in view of Nied et al. '490 and the rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Ohno '536 in view of Nied et al. '490 further in view of Chapman '669 are respectfully traversed.

Applicants say with respect that the arguments presented to date in support of the patentability of the claims are proper and that the Examiner has attempted to meet the limitations of

those claims by readings of the references, particularly of Nied et al. '490, in a manner that is not consistent with the teachings of the references themselves.

The justifications for the rejection appearing at pages 8 to 10 of the Office Action have been studied but it is applicants' position that the references do not suggest the arrangement as presently claimed. The Examiner in the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 of the Office Action offers justifications why it allegedly would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a single line. Applicants say that a review of Nied et al. '490 Figs. 1 and 2 and the related disclosure at column 4 establishes that the patentees require and need a multiline collection of conductive electrode segments 24 constituting parts of the overall electrode 18. Indeed a review of Fig. 1 shows rows of seven conductive electrode segments making up the overall electrode. Such an arrangement is absolutely necessary for the Nied et al. '490 objectives to be accomplished; see the discussion in the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116 filed September 24, 2004. The Nied et al. '490 method and apparatus are intended to form "a selected thermal pattern" on a

sheet of polar polymer material; see the last step of patent claim 1, the third step of patent claim 5, the fourth element of patent claim 9, and the fifth element of patent claim 14.

The rationale for the rejection on page 6, lines 1 to 13, of the Office Action establishes how the Examiner has chosen to ignore what Nied et al. '490 actually says to a reader about how the patent device works. There is no proper teaching or suggestion of using a single line of heating blocks.

There is no reason, save trying to recast the teaching of the reference in a way not supported thereby, to hold that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use but a single line of heating blocks. The patentees certainly don't want to do so. As such, the claims patentably define thereover and the rejection should be withdrawn.

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The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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